

First off I would like to thank you for this opportunity to share with you my opinion on this very important matter. My name is Jesse Caszatt, and I own the Alibi in St. Johns, MI. Before purchasing my establishment I was in the military. I joined the military right after high school. In fact I worked so hard in high school I graduated with my diploma in three years. I wanted to follow in the footsteps of my late grandfather and join the military. So excited I took three night school classes, a correspondent course, and a summer school class just so I could join and serve my country a year early. In my tenure in the United States Navy I have been all over the world. I spent countless nights in the Persian Gulf on Operation Southern Watch. We also spent many months conducting Anti-narcotics Operations in the Gulf of Mexico. However the most important period of time while in the navy both to myself, the people in this room and the entire country was the time between September 2001 and March 2002. Just a few short days after September 11th we boarded the USS Theodore Roosevelt a Nimitz class aircraft carrier, and we carried our "big stick" to the people that threatened our freedom. With thousands today and millions throughout our history. I fought for the freedom we hold so dear in this country. Now I am sitting here and listening to the freedoms I fought for taken away bit by bit. I am a non smoker. I am a business owner. Until now I have had the freedom to

allow or not allow smoking in my business. No one has taken away the freedoms of the non smoker. They have not been forced into an establishment that allows smoking. They have the freedom to say I will not enter that place because it allows people to smoke. Nobody has taken away the freedom of the business owner like one who was here last week and has made a business decision to make his place smoke free. Yet we sit here and are contemplating taking away the freedom of business owners to make the decision that they feel is right for there own business. We are also contemplating taking away the freedom of the smoker to go just about anywhere and not be ridiculed or discriminated against.

I fought for my country and the freedom we were promised as kids. Now I watch as the government attempts to take away more freedom. This is not what I fought for.